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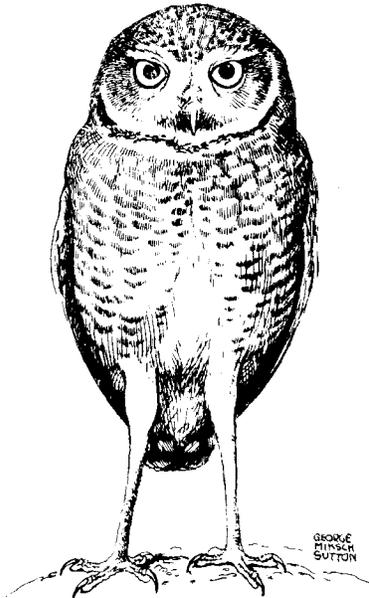
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Other officers are: President Gary Lingle, 2550 N. Diers Avenue, Suite H, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801; Vice-president, Mrs. Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005; and Secretary, Mrs. C. E. Johnson, 604 South 22nd St., Apt. 406, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

1985 FALL FIELD DAY

Pleasant weather greeted the 70 people who attended part or all of the 1985 Fall Field Day, at the 4-H Camp at Halsey National Forest, 5 and 6 October. There was a slide show Friday night and the official tally Sunday noon, but other than the scheduled meals, the rest of the time was free for individual birding. The committee on a records committee completed its work and presented its report to the directors. The report was accepted and Tanya Bray, Ruth Green, and Wayne Mollhoff were appointed to 3 year terms on the committee, Alice Kenitz and Barbara Padelford for 2 year terms, and R. G. Cortelyou and Gary Lingle to 1 year terms. The Red-necked Grebe reported by Bill Garthright and the Eurasian Wigeons reported by Alice Kenitz were selected as the best birds reported for the period. It was decided that a discount of \$.50 be given for memberships and subscriptions for subsequent years paid for with the current year's payment.

The number of species seen on the Forest or immediately adjacent was 72 (it was 81 last year), but 17 (marked *) were recorded off the Forest, but in its general vicinity by parties coming in from the east, or by a couple of parties that went up toward Purdham, one of which went up to the lakes in Brown County. The low count on the Forest may have been due to a snowfall the previous weekend. The snow had disappeared before the Field Day. The species recorded were: Pied-billed Grebe*, Double-crested Cormorant*, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose*, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler*, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier; Sharp-shinned, Swainson's, Red-tailed, and Ferruginous Hawks; Golden Eagle*, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon*, Ring-necked Pheasant, Greater Prairie-Chicken*, Sharp-tailed Grouse, American Coot*, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs*, Ring-billed Gull*; Rock* and Mourning Doves; Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Common Poorwill, Belted Kingfisher; Red-headed, Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers; Northern Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee; Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches; Brown Creeper, House Wren; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Eastern Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit*, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling; Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Bay-breasted, and Wilson's Warblers; Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee; American Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Grasshopper, Le Conte's*, Sharp-tailed*, Fox, Song, Lincoln's, Swamp*, White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' Sparrows; Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird*, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird*, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, and House Sparrow.

SUPPLEMENT TO 1985 SPRING OCCURRENCE REPORT

The following records were overlooked until it was too late to include them in the original report (*NBR* 53:50). They are either earlier, later, or new records for the localities listed, most recorded by Rick Wright, but also by Glen Kramer and the Werthmans. April is A, May is M. Four species and a hybrid, all marked +, were not in the first report, so that the total for the state is 296 rather than 292. The Douglas-Sarpy count is increased by two; no attempt was made to get similar figures for the other columns since they would affect only "spot check" columns. An * refers to these comments: Western Grebe, a count of 60 on one lake; Baird's Sandpiper, over 600; Silt Sandpiper, 135 at Antioch; and the Red Crossbills at a feeder at the Werthman home in north Omaha. Two showed up the first day and they peaked at 40 on 21 April. The birds were in various stages of growth -- yellow, spotty orange, red -- and were quite tame. One could get within three feet of them before they would fly from the feeder. The counties whose names are shortened in the headings are: Douglas and Sarpy, under D/S, Sioux, Kimball, Dawes, Sheridan, Garden, Chase, and Pawnee.

Not included in the table is a correction for Lincoln Co.: delete Cedar Waxwing and add Evening Grosbeak Ap 2 to My 9. Up to 31 at a time were at the Howard Wyman home. An initial Ap 22 date for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, at the Dr. Arthur V. Douglas home in Bellevue, was learned too late to be included in the table.

	Siou	Kimb	Dawe	Sher	Gard	Chas	Clay	York	D/S	Cass	Pawn
Western Grebe	-	-	-	-	M* 9	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-backed Heron	-	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
Cinnamon Teal	-	-	-	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	M 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broad-winged Hawk	-	M 8	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 13	-	-	M 6
								M 21			
Ferruginous Hawk	M 10	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	M 8	M 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	M 12	M 9	-	M 7	M 21	-	-	-
								M 11			
Lesser Golden-Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 21	-	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-	-	-	-
+ Mountain Plover	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-	-	-	-
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 6
Hudsonian Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-	M 14	-	-
+ Sanderling	-	-	-	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	M* 7	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	M 21	-	-	-
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	M* 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burrowing Owl	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Poorwill	M 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis' Woodpecker	-	-	M 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Olive-sided Flycatcher	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 20	-	-
Great Crested Flycatcher	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Violet-green Swallow	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Wren	-	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	M 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M 12										
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 6
+ Water Pipit	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bell's Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
+ Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 17	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 20	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	M 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Tanager	-	-	M 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+ Hybrid Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-
Lazuli Bunting	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Sparrow	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 7	-	-	-	-
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M 6
Lincoln's Sparrow	M 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
McCown's Longspur	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chestnut-collared Longs.	-	M 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A* 4	-	-
									M 24		

BLACK-NECKED STILTS NESTING IN NEBRASKA

On 7 May 1985 I saw two adult Black-necked Stilts on Lower Harrison Lake, Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co. In the middle of June photographers Charlie and Rita Summers saw two on Martin Lake. On 11 July I saw two adults and four young on Martin Lake. The whitish/gray colored young had long grayish/green legs (3-4") and a black bill, about 2" long. They appeared to be feeding by probing soft mud. The two adults were exhibiting aggressive behavior. One adult dived and screamed at a Blue-winged Teal hen with eight ducklings until they moved from the area, and also chased two adult Killdeer and one adult American Avocet in flight. The habitat the Stilts were occupying was a small exposed mud flat, about 40' x 100', with about 4"-6" of water remaining, surrounded by cattail and hardstem bulrush. This lake was drained in the summer of 1983 and kept dry during 1984, and then allowed to recharge with water in 1985. On 13 July the birds were seen on this mud flat by Kevin J. Brennan and me and photographs were taken. On 26 July I saw the birds again at Martin Lake. The adults were somewhat less aggressive than before, and the young had color patterns resembling the adults, with pinkish legs. They had moved from the mud flat, which was now dry, to the main portion of the lake. The outer 30 yards of the lake were 4"-6" deep, and the average depth of the lake was 1-1.5'. There were sporadic stems of bulrush across the entire lake.



On 15 August the six were seen by Kevin J. Brennan and me in a wetland area east of Borden Lake. The coloration of the young and the adults appeared to be identical, but the young, which stayed in a group, behaved differently from the adults. On 16 and 17 August I observed the birds on Borden Lake. The wetland east of the lake was dry. All birds were seen flying at times. I took photographs in the evening of 16 August (including the one shown here) and the next morning.

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A RED PHALAROPE IN PIERCE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

The Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) is seen yearly in the central portion of the United States, from the Great Lakes to Texas. More than 85% of these sightings are from fall, with 75% of the total from September to November (Dinsmore et al., 1984). This species is, however, considered a very rare or accidental migrant through the Plains States (Johnsgard 1980). A single specimen, taken on 15 October 1921 at Dad's Lake, near Wood Lake in Cherry Co. (Conover 1934) represents the only previous record of this species in Nebraska. The following represents the first record for this species for Pierce Co., and the second record for Nebraska.

On the evening of 23 September 1985 we observed a Red Phalarope at the south side of Willow Creek Recreation Area, Pierce Co. We watched the bird for approximately 20 minutes at a distance of 20-100 feet, using 10x40 binoculars and 15-60x spotting scopes. The bird was easily approached as it foraged in a shallow inlet.

The bird was in the company of a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and differences between the two species were readily observed. Both individuals were in winter plumage. There was an apparent size difference between the two birds, with the Red Phalarope being the larger by approximately 2 inches. The Red Phalarope also had a lighter colored solid gray back and lacked the whitish streaks which were highly evident on the other species. Unlike the long needle-thin bill of the Red-necked, the larger bird presented a black, thick killdeer-type bill that appeared to nearly equal the diameter of the bird's head. Both birds exhibited a white face and breast and had a black patch extending from the back of the eye. The eye stripe of the Red Phalarope appeared thicker and angled more down from the eye, at an approximate 45 degrees, while the eye stripe of the Red-necked was thinner and ran more horizontally before curving down. Another noticeable characteristic between the two species was crown color. The Red Phalarope had a white forehead and crown, with black starting near the posterior two-thirds of the head, while the other bird showed white above the bill, with the crown being all black. The amount of black extending in from the sides of the breast was more evident in the Red Phalarope.

In flight both individuals exhibited white wing stripes. Call notes (a sharp "whit") were given from both birds, and although very similar, were separable to species. Both were actively feeding when we left at sundown. We returned the next afternoon to take photographs, but found no evidence of the Red Phalarope. Near sunset, a Red-necked Phalarope did return to the same inlet and offered Layne Johnson and us another chance to view this species.

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THE RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER IN NEBRASKA

The Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*) was for many years accorded subspecific status within Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), but the American Ornithologists' Union recently revised this opinion, and now regards *nuchalis* as a "good" species (*Auk* 102:680). Red-naped Sapsucker can be added to the Nebraska (species) list on the basis of three specimens in the collection of the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM).

The breeding range of Red-naped Sapsucker includes the Rocky Mountains east of the Cascades from southwest Canada south to central Arizona and it winters in much of northern Mexico, north as far as the southern part of its breeding range (*The N.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, Sixth Edition*, 1983).

The only records for Nebraska are three specimens in the UNSM collection, taken by Mickel and Dawson (*Wilson Bulletin* 32:74). On 13 September 1919 two birds were collected in Monroe Canyon, Sioux County: a juvenile male (ZM6310 in the UNSM collection) and an adult male (ZM6311). Another specimen male (ZM6312) was collected a few days later, on 23 September, in woods along the White River five miles north of Chadron, in Dawes County. Mickel and Dawson stated that "it is possible that this is a fairly common bird during migrations in northwest Nebraska" (*WB* 32:74).

We know of no other records for Nebraska. A sapsucker collected 29 September 1920 by C. E. Mickel in Monroe Canyon is ZM6313 in the UNSM

collection. This specimen, a juvenile male, is labeled "Red-naped Sapsucker", but is identified as *S. v. varius* in the UNSM file, and indeed appears to be an example of *varius* (see *Birding* 10:142).

In 1920 Swenk listed Red-naped Sapsucker as an "uncommon migrant westerly" (*Nebraska Blue Book*, 1920), while Haecker, Moser, and Swenk in 1945 considered it a "rare migrant in extreme northwest Nebraska" (*NBR* 13:1). Similarly, Rapp, Rapp, Baumgarten, and Moser in 1958 listed the race *nuchalis* of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker as "very rare in the western part of the state" (*Occ. Papers N.O.U.*, No. 5, 1958). None of these authors cited specific records, and presumably their designations were based on the three specimens taken by Mickel and Dawson, as no new records had been published in the interim. Recently, Richard Rosche listed Yellow-bellied Sapsucker as a casual spring and fall migrant and casual winter visitor, with but 8 records in total (*Birds of Northwestern Nebraska and Southwestern South Dakota*, 1982). There was no indication as to which races these birds belonged.

Based on the foregoing, it appears that sapsuckers in general are rare birds in extreme western Nebraska. Since there are only three documented records, none in recent years, we consider the Red-naped Sapsucker to be accidental in Nebraska. Birders should pay careful attention to any sapsuckers seen in western Nebraska and, of course, further east. Careful study of such birds and of the article on sapsucker identification by Jon Dunn (*Birding* 10:142) should yield important information on the distribution, both spatial and temporal, of Red-breasted Sapsucker in Nebraska.

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NESTING OBSERVATIONS OF THE PIPING PLOVER NEAR SIOUX CITY

From mid-April to early August 1985 members of the Loess Hills Audubon Society monitored the nesting of Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) on fly-ash settling ponds of the IPS Port Neal Generating Station, on the Missouri River near Salix, Iowa. Declining regional and national populations (Borie, 1985; Kaufman, 1984; and Evans, 1985) make the discovery of nesting individuals quite exciting. Piping Plovers were first found at this site in 1984.

The ash ponds appear to be very good nesting habitat (Evans, 1985). There are large areas of gravel-like substrate with little to no vegetation, minimal human disturbance, and an available source of water. Observations were made at irregular intervals by a team of interested individuals. A total of six nests were discovered during the study period and 23 eggs were produced.

The first 1985 sighting occurred on 18 April, with the discovery of three adult birds. Two days later, 20 April, six individuals were seen. Courting and territorial behavior was noted on both dates. The first nest was found on 11 May, but no adults could be associated with this nest. A second nest, with defensive adults, was located on 12 May.

On 25 May four team members canvassed two of the settling ponds. The first nest was determined to be abandoned. Dew covered the three eggs and no adults were in the vicinity. The second nest could not be relocated. It is possible the four eggs from the second nest were washed away by recent heavy rains and/or discharge from a nearby ash-slurry pipeline. Predation cannot be excluded as a cause of the disappearance.

In compensation, three new nests were located on this date. Nest Three contained two eggs, with the adults presenting a very active distraction display. Nests Four and Five contained four eggs each. Adults were in the vicinity of both nests. Only the adults from nest Five presented a mild distraction display. The area around nest Five contained several depressions that resembled active Piping Plover nests (Evans, 1985). There was no evidence that these depressions were ever used for nesting. Other Piping Plovers were seen to the south and west of these nests. We could not manage to explore these areas to confirm any nesting.

At this point it was decided to allow nesting to proceed with no disturbance by the team. Our next observations were on 8 June. The adults from nest Three provided a very intense broken wing nest defense display. As the

observers approached, one bird would crouch and flatten while vocalizing and fluttering its wings and tail. The other adult would remain closer to the nest and would present one side to the observer and flare its tail feathers. This Plover pair would also pursue any other Plover which approached too closely. This activity, at times, took precedence over trying to distract the approaching observers. Four eggs were present on this date.

Nest Six was first found on this date. It, too, contained four eggs. No adult Plovers were in the nest's vicinity. Nest Five generated some defense display, but the behavior was less intense than the displays of the nest Three adults. The displays did not intensify even as the observers approached the nest. There was very little adult activity around nest Four. Nest Four and Five also contained four eggs each.



Overlook of nest Three, looking south, 18 June. The nest is just to the left of the dense mat of vegetation above the photograph's center.

A visit on 18 June was very disappointing. Nest Three could not be visited, due to water and soft ground conditions. The nest appeared to be safe as judged from a rise overlooking the site. No adults could be seen around the nest, but they were heard in that general direction. The nearest ash-slurry discharge pipe was spewing a good volume of water. Nest Four contained only three eggs. We could not determine what happened to the fourth egg. There was no sign of a hatch, but neither were there signs of predation. Nest Five was empty. Here, too, no definite conclusions could be drawn about the fate of these eggs. Nest Six still contained four eggs, but no adults were in the area.

Between 1600 and 1630 hours on 22 June a newly hatched Piping Plover chick was discovered at nest Three. As the observers approached the nest defense behavior of the adults intensified. The chick was not noticed until one adult flew a short distance from the nest carrying half of an eggshell. One newly hatched chick and two intact eggs were in the nest. The observers scanned the area for another chick or evidence of another hatching, but nothing was found. The ash-slurry pipeline was still flowing, but at a much reduced rate from the previous visit. To reach nest Three required picking one's way through some very soft, water-saturated ground. Nests One and Four still contained three eggs each, while nest Six had four eggs. No adults were associated with any of the three nests.

Two Piping Plover chicks and adults were seen on 6 July. On 20 and 21 July one juvenile was seen each day, in the company of one adult on the 20th and two adults on the 21st.

The last visit was made on 2 August. Nest One still contained three eggs. Nest Two still could not be relocated. There were no eggs in nest Three, with the fledging of one or possibly two chicks. Nest Four contained



one intact egg, with a second egg outside of the nest. This second egg possessed a squarish hole, as though the embryo had been surgically removed. Nothing remained within the shell. We offer no explanation as to how this occurred. We can only speculate about the fate of Nest Five. Possibly a hatch occurred, or perhaps the nest was destroyed. Nest Six contained four eggs.

In summary, six Piping Plover nests were located and observed from 18 April to 2 August 1985. Twenty-three eggs were produced with these six nests. We can confirm the hatching of one Plover chick. Two juvenile Plovers with adult supervision were seen. Although this is not a very high success rate (Evans, 1985), it is good to see some successful nesting for this endangered species. We look forward to next year.

Summary of Piping Plover Egg Production
11 May to 2 August 1985

	11 May	12 May	25 May	8 June	18 June	22 June	6 July	2 August
Nest One	3E	--	3E	3E	3E	3E	--	3E
Nest Two	--	4E	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nest Three	--	--	2E	4E	--	3E,1Y	2Y?	--
Nest Four	--	--	4E	4E	3E	3E	--	1E,1D
Nest Five	--	--	4E	4E	--	--	--	--
Nest Six	--	--	--	4E	4E	4E	--	4E

Key: E = egg, Y = young, D = damaged egg. ? = cannot confirm they belong to this nest.

Note: Piping Plovers have a 27 to 31 day incubation period (Evans, 1985, and Terres, 1980)

Acknowledgement: The Piping Plover team of the Loess Hills Audubon Society - Bill Huser, Jerry Probst, Wayne and LorRayne Livermore, Bob Livermore, Larry Galloway, Tim Rollinger, Mike Greiner, and Randy Williams - thank Iowa Public Service, the Iowa Conservation Commission, and The Nature Conservancy of Iowa for their interest, cooperation, and support.

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NOTES

FILLMORE COUNTY. On 23 June 1985, while I was atlasing block #1F01 in Fillmore Co., just north of Shickley, I saw a Common Moorhen in Weis Lagoon and found a nest with 11 eggs. There was also a very large colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons (I counted 30 in sight at one time). The Night-Herons were nesting close together in a bunch of cattails. Many were still nest building, but others had as many as 5 eggs. I didn't want to disturb the birds too much, but I did see 3 nests with 5 eggs and 1 each of 4 eggs and 1 egg. There was also a colony of Great-tailed Grackles, nesting right in among the Night-Herons, with some Grackle nests as close as 3 to 4 feet from a Night-Heron's

nest.

Other birds seen at Weis Lagoon included Pied-billed Grebe; American and Least Bitterns; Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, an immature Franklin's Gull, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. I saw an American Avocet and a Wilson's Phalarope in the atlas block, but not at Weis Lagoon.

-- William C. Garthright, 2240 N. 31st St., Lincoln, Neb. 68503

RED-NECKED GREBE. On 16 June 1985 I was wading through some cattails at the edge of a small open area in a pond at the North 27th Street marsh when I came upon a grebe sitting in the open on the water less than ten yards to my northeast. I hadn't seen it earlier, so it probably moved out of the cattails or the extensive growth of sedges as I got closer. It was at right angles to me, facing northwest, and didn't seem to be aware of my presence. There were no other birds nearby, but I estimated it to be roughly the size of a teal. It was very dark in plumage, dark gray or blackish, though somewhat lighter on the chin and throat. It had a round head and a very long neck. The eye was rather dark, but appeared to be slightly reddish. The tail feathers were short and lay flat on the water at the base of the gradually sloping back. The bill was the most noticeable individual feature, and I studied it carefully. It was very long, nearly the length of the head, slender, and dagger-shaped, coming to a dull point (not sharply pointed like a Western Grebe). Upper and lower mandibles seemed to be mirror images in shape and size. The bill was black except for the base of the upper mandible and the back 1/3 of the lower mandible, which were dull orange. After looking at it for several minutes, I moved forward and the bird started, turned 180°, and took off. (I don't believe it ran on top of the water before taking off, but I really forgot to note that.) It stayed low to the water, flying from my left to my right at first, but quickly turned and headed northwest. When it turned I could clearly see large, though somewhat ragged-looking, white patches at the rear of the inner wing (the secondaries). I didn't notice any white patches on the forward edge of the wings, though I wasn't looking for any and the bird was heading away from me at a low angle.

--- William C. Garthright, 2240 N. 31st Street, Lincoln, Neb. 68503.

IBIS IDENTIFICATION. On 23 May 1985 I got a report of an apparent Glossy Ibis in Antelope Co., 2 m. west of Oakdale. I drove up that afternoon and found the bird in a small sandhill pothole that was bisected by a paved road. The late afternoon light was perfect, two hours before sundown, clear sky, sun at my back. I got about a 30-45 second look at the bird from about 30 yards, with a 20x scope. I noted a very narrow white facial ring, dark brownish beak, dark legs that were red at the knees. The facial skin looked dark and I couldn't see the eye color. At this point, based on the above marks, I thought it was probably a Glossy Ibis. I put down my scope, picked up my camera, and was shifting position to get some documentary photos, when the bird flushed across the road into the path of an oncoming car and was struck.

With the bird in hand and unlimited time, I correctly identified the bird as a White-faced Ibis. I found the following marks: the iris was red, between crimson #108 and poppy red #108A. The narrow white ring did go around behind the eye -- a fact that I failed to note on the first brief look. The knees were maroon #31, as were the backs of the legs. The fronts of the legs above and below the knees were still covered with dark scales of greenish-maroon skin that were sloughing off. The facial skin was indeed a dark maroon, between maroon #31 and crimson #108. The entire beak was a dark olive #30. As the *National Geographic* and *Audubon Master Guides* indicate for breeding White-faced Ibis (this was a male with enlarged testes that was physiologically at or very near breeding condition), the eye and facial skin color were "right". The legs were partly "right" (from the back) and partly "wrong" (from the front). The beak, the most obvious field mark, was completely "wrong". The white facial ring was "right".

In summary: the guides say that only in adult breeding condition can White-faced and Glossy Ibises be reliably separated. Well, this was an adult in breeding condition, and still didn't have all the "right" marks. I would guess that immatures would be virtually impossible to identify. It sounds like the red eye will identify adult White-faced Ibis any time of the year, if you can see it. Finally, check all of the field marks carefully. They may not all agree, but check and note down what you see. Then, if you can't get enough information to positively identify the bird in the time available, don't be ashamed to admit it. Don't guess at or assume marks you can't see. This specimen is now a part of the Wayne State College collection, #1054.

The color references are from *A Naturalists' Color Guide*, by Frank B. Smithe, American Museum of Natural History, N. Y., 1974, 1975, 1981.

--- Wayne Mollhoff, 736 S. Third, Albion, Neb. 68620

THOSE SIBERIAN GEESE. Those interested in the Bean Goose sighting may want to read "Bean Goose in the Midlands", by Barbara Wilson, in *Iowa Bird Life* 55:83. The Iowa Records Committee has accepted the Bean Goose as an addition to the official state list. Mrs. Wilson dismisses the Swan and Bar-headed Geese seen in western Nebraska the same winter as non-feral (*NBR*, 53:3 and 67).

WHOOPIING CRANES. The Fish and Wildlife Service, Pierre, S. D., in its release on spring sightings of Whooping Cranes, said: "A number of birds were held up briefly in Nebraska by adverse weather and wind over the Easter weekend, allowing for a number of sightings in Nebraska." There was an unconfirmed sighting of 3 or 4 birds 28 February, 4 m. S and 3 m. W of Doniphan, Hall Co. There was a probable sighting of 4 birds 3 April, flying west from Alda Platte River bridge, Hall Co. Confirmed sightings were: 7 April, 5 birds flying 5 m. SE of Burwell, Valley Co., 7-8 April 2 adults and a young 7 m. SE of Stockville, Frontier Co., 7-9 April, 2 birds 2 m. N. of Funk, in Phelps and Kearney counties, 8 April 3 birds 6 m. N. and 5.5 m. E. of Kearney, Buffalo Co. and 4 birds 6 m. S. and 2 m. W. of Shelton, Kearney Co., and 2 birds flying at Swanson Reservoir, Hitchcock Co., and 9 April 2 birds on the North Platte River 2. m. E. and 1.5 m. S. of the junction of highways 92 and 26, Garden Co.

FLEDGLING LONG-BILLED CURLEWS IN SHERIDAN COUNTY. On 7 June 1985 Barbara Wilson, of Hastings, Iowa, and I were conducting a census on a Breeding Bird Atlas Block in Sheridan Co., about one mile north of Lakeside. We spotted two very young Long-billed Curlews in the grass. They were quite gray, with much evidence of down, and with very short, straight bills. As we stepped out of the car, an adult Long-billed Curlew rose from the grass and began circling us and calling. Within seconds other Curlews began flying in from all points of the compass. In a very short time there were 18 adult Curlews, plus several American Avocets and 3 Willets standing in that field. We lost sight of the fledgling Curlews almost immediately! As Mrs. Wilson commented, "As a distraction display, this was certainly effective!"

--- Tanya Bray, 9708 Grover, Omaha, Neb. 68124

GROOVE-BILLED ANI. On 22 September 1985 I heard the local birds really scolding and they seemed quite agitated, so I walked to the window to see what was wrong. I noted there was a large black bird on the honeysuckle bush. It had its back to me, but it didn't seem to be a familiar sight. The bird seemed to be approximately 14 to 16 inches long, with the tail longer than the body, and the tail was well rounded on the end like a Grackle's tail. I called my husband to bring the binoculars and field book, although I was standing less than 25 feet from the bird. We couldn't figure what kind of a bird it was until it turned and dropped to a lower hedge and then to the lawn. It was then that we got a look at the bill. The bird had no face -- it was all beak or bill, which had grooves on it. It had a black eye. The bird was very calm and seemed content eating grasshoppers etc. in the bushes and on the lawn. The local birds calmed down and flew into the same shrubs but didn't get too close. I called Ruth Green and a few members of our Nature



--- Photo by Henry Hyde

Club that are bird and photo buffs. They were Maryann and Henry Hyde, Paul Henslee, Dixie Croft, Helen Martin, Bernice Nolte, my husband Cecil, and myself that saw the bird. I finally found the bird in my guide, and Ruth confirmed it when she arrived -- a Groove-billed Ani. The Ani flew to a scotch pine tree to preen itself and Dixie Craft stood below it, within 5 feet, to take a picture. I also was standing there and it ignored us. It is my personal opinion that the bird looked tired, and it also seemed to be a very gentle bird. We milled around the Ani, taking pictures and observing it, and again it was very calm and undisturbed. After dark the Ani flew to a dogwood bush in the back yard, closer to the lake, and I assume a drink, as the lake is there. The Ani was gone the next morning. The neighbor's cat was sitting under the shrubs and probably scared it away.

--- Maysel Kiser, 211 Beaver Lake, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048

DUNDY COUNTY. The Rock Creek Hatchery and adjacent lake recreation area, near Parks, Dundy Co, is a real oasis. On 31 May 1985 I found pure males of both Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles, plus well-marked hybrids. I found two nests of Cedar Waxwings, both in Siberian elm, well out towards the ends of the branches, in thick foliage. Both were on the lakeside. When I returned on 14 July both were already abandoned. I've seen Cedar Waxwings all summer in Nance and Wheeler counties, and had reports from Stanton Co. as well. I suspect that they could be found nesting virtually anywhere in the state, although not regularly. All of my sightings and reports of suspected nestings have been associated with lakes and marshes. The associated vegetation back away from the lakes and trees in these reports varies from cornfields to sandhills grasslands to sagebrush and yucca grasslands. Water and trees seem to be the common denominator. In May I found 6-10 singing/calling Western Wood-Pewees, but not Eastern Wood-Pewees. On 14 July, despite a thorough search of all the habitat I'd covered before, I found no Wood-Pewees of either species. Later that same day I did find Eastern Wood-Pewees singing in Frontier Co., so I know they were still singing. Elsewhere in the county in May I found Bobolinks and a pair of Mockingbirds. Jim Barner, of the hatchery, told me of Screech-Owls he'd seen there, with young, in 1983, so I returned after dark, primed with tape recorder and flashlights. We played the songs of both Eastern and Western Screech-Owls from the *National Geographic Guide* records. The birds (2 of them) answered both recordings, but the only call they used was an exact rendition of the Eastern call. The next day I picked up a road-killed bird in Hitchcock Co., 4.5 miles west of Trenton. It is presumably also an Eastern. It is #1055 in the Wayne State College collection and is available for study by anyone interested in checking the Owls at the apparent edge of their range. I would recommend a visit to the hatchery and lake to any birders passing through the area.

--- Wayne J. Mollhoff, 736 S. Third, Albion, Neb. 68620

CINNAMON TEAL NEST AT CRESCENT LAKE NWR. On 24 May 1984 Mark Koepsel and I were nest dragging with a cable pulled between two vehicles when we flushed a Cinnamon Teal. It flew over to an adjacent wetland where it swam with a drake Cinnamon Teal. This was south of Smith Lake and the West Mail Road. On 2 June I rechecked the nest. The hen flushed and joined the drake on the same wetland. On 11 June I rechecked the nest. The hen was absent and 5 eggs were missing, most likely due to bullsnake predation. On 13 June I rechecked the nest and found it and the remaining 4 eggs abandoned.

--- Mark J. Helsinger, Crescent Lake NWR,
Star Route, Box 21, Ellsworth, Nebraska 69340

COOPER'S HAWK NESTS. *Free Flight* (Raptor Recovery Center, Lincoln) 1:3 has an article by R. Linderholm and J. Wright about Cooper's Hawk nesting sites in southwest Nebraska. Since 1980 they have located five Cooper's Hawk nesting sites in a five by eight mile area by Strunk Reservoir.

COMMON SNIPE. In late May of 1983 Kevin J. Brennan flushed a Common Snipe from a nest with 4 eggs. The nest was north of Gimlet Lake on the east side of Quarters 2, Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co.

--- Mark J. Helsinger, Crescent Lake NWR,
Star Route, Box 21, Ellsworth, Nebraska 69340

FLEDGLING WILSON'S PHALAROPES. At 9 AM on 13 June 1985, Bill White and three other employees of the Game Commission discovered two Wilson's Phalarope fledglings at 98th St. and Ashland Road, Lancaster Co. As they walked through the wet meadow two male and one female Phalaropes flew around them, acting extremely agitated. They walked through the area several times without finding anything, then stood back some yards away and watched till the adults landed in the grass. They rushed toward the area. Two adults flew up, but one male stayed on the ground until the last minute, then flew right at them. On the ground were two fledglings, huddled together.

--- William Garthright, 2240 N. 31st St., Lincoln, Neb. 68503

CHEYENNE COUNTY. On 18 November 1984 I noticed a Robin still hanging around our farmyard, and today (6 December) he can still be spotted. Now for the rare bird in this area: on 25 November I spotted a Townsend's Solitaire flying into a grove of trees from the road. The next day one was on our farm, about two miles south of where I spotted it the day before. On 1 December I saw one on our farm, but I haven't seen it since.

--- Galen Wittrock, RR 2, Lodgepole, Nebraska 69149

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. I had a female Rufous Hummingbird from the morning of 10 November 1985 to the morning of 17 November. It was at my hummingbird feeder, in my backyard in Bellevue. It had a rufous tail; underparts rufous laterally; a fairly large scarlet (metallic) patch on its throat; totally green back; tail rounded, and held high compared to body plane while it was feeding. The feeder is about three feet from the window and I had plenty of time for observation. The totally green back and metallic red spot on the throat rule out a female Broad-tailed or an immature male Allen's. Its larger size and well developed coloring indicated at least a year-old female.

--- Arthur V. Douglas, 515 N. Third St., Bellevue, Neb. 68005

VARIED THRUSH. I had a male Varied Thrush in my backyard 24 November 1984. One (probably the same one) showed up briefly in my neighbor's yard 2 December. Both times House Sparrows chased it away. There were apples from a flowering crab on my neighbor's shed roof, and the Thrush pecked at them until he could extract the seeds. I examined the apples later, and it appeared that none of the flesh was consumed. This bird was much more

timid than the one that spent 19 January 1980 into February with me (I was not a member of NOU in 1980, and did not report the bird.)

--- Doug G. Thomas, 1035 Mississippi Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska 69301

WAXWINGS. I had a large flock of Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings on 1, 2, and 3 February 1985. I worked on the next two days so I don't know if they came those days or not. They did not come after that. About 50 Robins were there with them. The Robins stayed a few days longer. The birds cleaned off the berries about 2/3 of the way down on two cedar trees, each tree about 8 to 10 feet tall.

--- Zee Uridil, 73 Westview Estates, Chadron, Neb. 69337

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR NEST IN SIOUX COUNTY. On 9 June 1985 Barbara Wilson, of Hastings, Iowa, and I were birding on the shortgrass prairie southwest of Harrison, very near the Wyoming border. When we arrived at the site Ed and Mark Brogie were studying a female longspur. The bird would run back and forth very near us, but seemed reluctant to fly. As we suspected she might have a nest nearby, we backed up about 20 feet and waited. In a few minutes she flew onto the nest. From where we were standing the nest was invisible. As we approached she again left the nest, and we could see the four eggs. The nest was built into a small



depression in the ground. A very neat cup of woven grass stems completely filled the hole. One side of the nest was rather open, but the other was concealed by a taller tuft of dry grass. Not wanting to disturb the nest further, we left the area. As we were walking away a male McCown's Longspur flew in and began singing his flight song.

--- Tanya Bray, 9708 Grover, Omaha, Neb. 68124

SMITH'S LONGSPURS. Around 9:30 AM 2 September 1984 I saw about 15 Smith's Longspurs at a rest stop on US 385, about 17 miles south of Alliance, just inside Morrill Co. This has prairie grasslands, marshes, and groves of trees. There were about 15 females and juveniles perched on a power line over the south marsh, but (thank God for flashy males!) I made my identification on a solitary male about 30 feet away in the lower branches of a Russian olive. When I first saw it I thought it was a Black-headed Grosbeak, but a Robin landed in a nearby branch and provided scale. Odd how single birds seem larger to me than birds in a flock. Anyway, I used binoculars to identify it, and felt fortunate indeed that it tolerated my commotion for several minutes of fumbling through field guides to check and double check the identification before it flew over to join the rest of the flock. I went back the next day to get another look, but they had flown on.

--- Doug Thomas, 1035 Mississippi Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska 69301

EARLY PINE SISKIN EGG. For four weeks I had observed Pine Siskins in fervent display in southwest Omaha, and had for some time suspected them of nesting, when on 21 March 1985 I collected an egg that had fallen to the

sidewalk. This was eight days earlier than the earliest date given for eggs in the Pine Ridge by Johnsgard's *Birds of the Great Plains*. Few egg dates seem to be available for eastern Nebraska, where the species is a not infrequent but erratic breeder. The specimen is deposited in the State Museum in Lincoln.

--- Rick Wright, 102 Lawrence Apts., West Drive, Princeton, N.J. 08540

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This Henslow's Sparrow was photographed at Burchard Lake 6 May 1985 by Scheil Zende. (*NBR* 53:43).

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WATCH OUT FOR THE CLARK'S GREBE! Light phase Western Grebes have been split off as Clark's Grebes (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). No specimens from Nebraska have yet been identified as Clark's, but the species may come to Nebraska. Clark's Grebe is illustrated in some of the more recent guides. The black crown of the Clark's terminates above the eye and lores, and its bill is more yellow. The new Western has the black crown coming down below the eye and lores, and its bill is darker. So when you see what seems to be a Western Grebe, check carefully to be sure it isn't a Clark's.